

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the subject application. Claims 5 and 27-41 are canceled without prejudice. Claims 1-4, 6-26, and 42-55 are pending in this application.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 42-55 stand allowed.

Claims 5-26 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the elements of claim 5. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1, and claims 2-4, 6-12, 14, 15, 17-19, and 21-26 depending from claim 1, are allowable.

Claim 13 has been amended to incorporate the elements of its base claim, claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 13 is allowable.

Claim 16 has been amended to incorporate the elements of its base claim, claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 16 is allowable.

Claim 20 has been amended to incorporate the elements of its base claim, claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 20 is allowable.

35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-4 and 27-41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,469,701 to Gumhold et al. (hereinafter "Gumhold"). Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the elements of allowable claim 5. Claims 27-41 have been canceled without prejudice. These amendments

and cancellations have been made to expedite issuance of the allowable claims in the present application. These amendments and cancellations are not intended to be, and are not to be interpreted as, an admission that Applicant agrees with the rejection of claims 1-4 and 27-41.

For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-4, as amended, are allowable over Gumhold.

Applicant respectfully requests that the §102 rejections be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Claims 1-4, 6-26, and 42-55 are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and issuance of the subject application. Should any matter in this case remain unresolved, the undersigned attorney respectfully requests a telephone conference with the Examiner to resolve any such outstanding matter.

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Respectfully Submitted,

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